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TAGS: SNAR, OREP, TU
SUBJECT: CODEL RANGEL'S VISIT TO ANKARA

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1. (C) - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS ON MEETINGS HELD IN ANKARA DURING THE JANUARY 17-18 VISIT BY CODEL RANGEL. MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER OZAL REPORTED REFTEL. THE CODEL MET WITH AMBASSADOR BARUTCU, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, PAID A BRIEF CALL ON AMBASSADOR OKTAY CANKARDES, THE SENIOR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL IN TURKEY AT THE TIME OF THE CODEL'S VISIT; CALLED ON THE JANDARMA'S DEPUTY CHIEF-OF-STAFF, GENERAL ISMAIL SELEN; TOURED THE JANDARMA'S NARCOTICS LABORATORY; CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER TURGUT OZAL; MET WITH SPEAKER OF THE TURKISH GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ACTING PRESIDENT, KARADUMAN; AND, FINALLY, THE CODEL SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS TO MEET WITH CHIEF OF TURKISH NATIONAL POLICE (TNP), FAHRI GORGULU, AND UNDER SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS, ERTUGRUL KUMCUOGLU. IN ADDITION, AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE HOSTED A DINNER FOR THE CODEL AND THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE TURKISH GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HOSTED A LUNCHEON. END SUMMARY.

3. MEETING WITH DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY BARUTCU: AMBASSADOR BARUTCU RETURNED TO ANKARA THIS SUMMER AFTER SERVING FOUR YEARS AS TURKEY'S AMBASSADOR TO VIENNA AND REPRESENTATIVE TO THE VARIOUS UN AGENCIES LOCATED THERE. HE BRIEFED CODEL ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITH REGARD TO ILLICIT NARCOTICS IN TURKEY. FREQUENTLY CITING INCB DOCUMENTS, BARUTCU SAID THAT ILLICIT OPIUM PRODUCTION IN TURKEY HAS BEEN ELIMINATED. PROGRESS HAS ALSO BEEN MADE ON ILLICIT CANNABIS PRODUCTION, BUT TURKEY REMAINS AN IMPORTANT TRANSIT COUNTRY FOR MORPHINE BASE AND HEROIN FROM IRAN AS WELL AS CANNABIS FROM

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LEBANON. HE DESCRIBED THE UNFDAC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WHICH IS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS OF THE TURKISH ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. THIS ASSISTANCE AMOUNTS TO \$5 MILLION OVER A FIVE YEAR PERIOD.

4. CONGRESSMAN RANGEL PRAISED TURKEY'S SUCCESS IN CONTROLLING OPIUM PRODUCTION AND ASKED IF A WAY COULD NOT BE FOUND TO COOPERATE MORE EFFECTIVELY TO STOP THE TRANSIT TRAFFIC; SPECIFICALLY HE THOUGHT MUCH MORE COULD BE DONE IN THE AREA OF NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE ON IRAN AND AFGHANISTAN. BARUTCU POINTED OUT THAT TURKEY DOES NOT FORMALLY RECOGNIZE THE CURRENT AFGHAN REGIME AND, DUE TO THE INSURGENCY, OBTAINING INFORMATION WOULD BE DIFFICULT IN ANY CASE. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT TURKEY HAD PROPOSED TO IRAN A PROTOCOL ON NARCOTICS COOPERATION, BUT THAT THE IRANIANS HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED. BARUTCU SAID THAT THE INCB HAS CREATED A SUBCOMMITTEE ON ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC IN THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST WHICH HAS A COORDINATING ROLE. THIS SUBCOMMITTEE, CURRENTLY CHAIRED BY BARUTCU, IS COMPOSED OF TURKEY, PAKISTAN, AFGHANISTAN AND IRAN FOR THE PRODUCING/TRANSIT COUNTRIES AND SWEDEN FOR THE CONSUMING COUNTRIES. CONGRESSMAN RANGEL WONDERED WHY THE U.S. WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE. HE SAID THE US WOULD BE A MORE APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONSUMING COUNTRIES.

5. BARUTCU, READING FROM PRESS CLIPPINGS, THEN ASKED ABOUT NEWS STORIES QUOTING SENATOR D'AMATO'S (R-NY)

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STATEMENT THAT NORTHERN CYPRUS HAS BECOME A NARCOTICS PRODUCING AND TRANSIT CENTER IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN HE TERMED THIS STATEMENT IRRESPONSIBLE. HE ENDED HIS COMMENTS BY BRIEFLY REVIEWING TURKEY'S POSITION ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE. UNAL UNSAL, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR MUTUAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, MFA, THEN PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF TURKEY'S ROLE IN NATO AND ITS EFFORTS TO UPGRADE ITS MILITARY CAPABILITIES. RANGEL CLOSED THE MEETING BY SAYING THAT THE US WANTS TO HELP TURKEY WITH THE NARCOTICS TRANSIT PROBLEM AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE CAN FIND NEW AND CREATIVE WAYS TO COMBAT THE ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRAFFIC.

6. CALL ON DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY, MFA, CANKARDES:

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CODEL THEN PAID BRIEF COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR OKTAY CANKARDES, WHO IN THE ABSENCE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE UNDER SECRETARY, WAS THE SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL IN TURKEY. CANKARDES WARMLY WELCOMED THE GROUP AND ASSURED THEM OF TURKEY'S INTEREST IN STOPPING ILLICIT TRAFFICKING. RANGLE PRAISED TURKEY'S POSITION ON THE TROLLING POPPY CULTIVATION AND SAID THAT THE US WANTS TO FIND NEW WAYS TO COOPERATE WITH TURKEY TO STEM TRANSIT TRAFFIC.

7. CALL ON JANDARMA DEPUTY CHIEF-OF-STAFF, GENERAL ISMAIL SELEN: GENERAL SELEN OPENED THE MEETING BY DESCRIBING THE DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN THE JANDARMA AND THE TURKISH NATIONAL POLICE (TNP). THE TNP HAS RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES WHILE THE JANDARMA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL RURAL AREAS OUTSIDE MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES. GENERAL SELEN THEN OPENED THE MEETING FOR DISCUSSION AND

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SOLICITED QUESTIONS FROM THE CODEL. CONGRESSMAN RANGEL EXPRESSED US APPRECIATION FOR TURKEY'S SUCCESS IN CONTROLLING THE CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPIES AND ASKED ABOUT THE VOLUME OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRANSITING TURKEY AS WELL AS TRENDS IN THIS TRAFFIC. SELEN SAID THAT HE HAD NO WAY OF ESTIMATING THE VOLUME IN ILLICIT DRUGS PASSING THROUGH TURKEY, BUT THAT ARRESTS AND SEIZURES HAD BEEN GROWING. RANGEL WONDERED IF TURKISH AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN ABLE TO ARREST THE REAL NARCOTICS KINGPINS OR WHETHER ARRESTS HAD BEEN CONFINED TO

RELATIVELY LOWER-LEVEL TRAFFICKERS AND COURIERS. THE GENERAL RESPONDED THAT HE WAS NOT YET SATISFIED THAT THEY HAD BEEN ARRESTING ENOUGH OF THE DRUG BOSSSES. HE DID FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT THEY HAD MADE PROGRESS IN THIS AREA.

8. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON COOPERATION BETWEEN TURKEY AND HER NEIGHBORS TO LIMIT DRUG TRAFFIC, SELEN SAID THAT WITH ONE OR TWO EXCEPTIONS PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE. MOST OF THE NARCOTICS TRANSITING TURKEY COME ACROSS THE IRANIAN BORDER. CONGRESSMAN ROGERS ASKED IF THE US COULD DO MORE TO HELP. IN RESPONSE SELEN POINTED TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF TIR TRUCKS THAT CROSS TURKEY'S EASTERN BORDER, AS MANY AS 4,500 EACH DAY. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO INSPECT EACH TRUCK. ANY EQUIPMENT OR ASSISTANCE THE US COULD PROVIDE TO HELP LOCATE WHERE DRUGS WERE HIDDEN COULD BE PUT TO GOOD USE. CONGRESSMAN ROGERS SAID THAT THE BEST ANSWER THE US HAS BEEN ABLE TO COME UP WITH IS SNIFFING DOGS. THE DISCUSSION ENDED WITH GENERAL SELEN'S COMMENT THAT DOGS HAD BEEN BRIEFLY TRIED IN TURKEY AND HAD NOT YET PROVED SUCCESSFUL.

9. TOUR OF JANDARMA NARCOTICS LABORATORY: THE TOUR WAS CONDUCTED BY THE LABORATORY DIRECTOR, MAJOR NAMIK EVREN, WHO EXPLAINED THE ROLE AND FUNCTION OF THE LABORATORY AND POINTED OUT THAT MUCH OF THE EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN PROVIDED FROM U.S. NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE FUNDS. WHEN ASKED THE ORIGIN OF MOST OF THE DRUGS TESTED IN THIS LABORATORY, EVREN RESPONDED THAT A MAJORITY OF THE ILLICIT NARCOTICS SEIZED IN TURKEY HAD AN IRANIAN ORIGIN.

10. CALL ON PRESIDENT OF THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ACTING PRESIDENT, NECMETTIN KARADUMAN: KARADUMAN MADE A NUMBER OF REMARKS WHICH SHOWED THAT HE WAS DEEPLY ACQUAINTED WITH THE PROBLEM OF NARCOTICS AND CONCERNED ABOUT STOPPING THE TRANSPORTATION OF NARCOTICS THROUGH TURKEY. HE POINTED OUT THAT STRINGENT CONTROLS IN TURKEY HAD ALREADY FORCED MANY TRAFFICKERS TO SHIFT THEIR OPERATION "SOUTH". HE ALSO EXHIBITED SOPHISTICATED KNOWLEDGE OF NARCOTICS DANGERS AND THE DIFFICULTIES

IN CONTROLLING DRUG TRADE. MR. RANGEL STRESSED ONCE AGAIN THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF DRUG ABUSE AND SAID THAT NARCOTICS WERE "AS DANGEROUS FOR AMERICAN CHILDREN AS POLITICAL TERRORISM WAS FOR TURKISH CHILDREN." THE MEETING WAS AN EXTREMELY AMICABLE ONE AND BOTH SIDES SEEMED TO FEEL THAT THEIR COLLEAGUES WERE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION ON THE DRUG PROBLEM.

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11. CALL ON CHIEF OF TURKISH NATIONAL POLICE, FAHRI GORGULU: RANGEI OPENED THE DISCUSSION BY EXPRESSING HIS HOPE THAT THE TRANSIT TRAFFIC THROUGH TURKEY WOULD NOT BECOME A FOCUS OF SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS IN THE US. HE SAID THAT THE CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD WORK TO KEEP THIS SUBJECT OUT OF THE POLITICAL SPOTLIGHT. GORGULU OPENED WITH A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF TURKEY'S SUCCESSFUL POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM AND TURKEY'S EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE TRANSIT TRADE. CONGRESSMAN RANGEL ASKED GORGULU FOR AN ESTIMATE OF NARCOTICS ENTERING TURKEY FROM IRAN. GORGULU SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THE VOLUME OF THIS ILLICIT TRAFFIC HAD BEEN REDUCED GREATLY AND THAT TRAFFICKERS WERE NOW USING MORE SOUTHERLY ROUTES, IN MANY CASES BY-PASSING TURKEY ALTOGETHER. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE SHORT OF WHAT HE TERMED IRON CURTAIN METHODS TO CONTROL THIS TRAFFIC ALTOGETHER. MUCH OF IT ENTERS TURKEY ON DONKEY-BACK THROUGH THE MOST REMOTE MOUNTAIN AREAS ALONG TURKEY'S EASTERN BORDER. GORGULU SUGGESTED THAT THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES PLACE TIGHTER CONTROLS ON ACETIC ANHYDRIDE (AA) SINCE IT IS ESSENTIAL TO HEROIN PRODUCTION. MOST INDUSTRIAL NATIONS HAVE A DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM. THEY, THEREFORE, HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO MORE CLOSELY CONTROL THE DISTRIBUTION OF THIS PRODUCT. IN RESPONSE, IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT AA IS PRODUCED IN VERY LARGE VOLUMES AND IS USED FOR MANY PURPOSES. ATTEMPTING TO CONTROL ITS DISTRIBUTION WOULD BE COMPARABLE IN DIFFICULTY TO CONTROLLING THE USE OF COAL.

12. GORGULU WARMLY PRAISED DEA/TNP COOPERATION AND DESCRIBED A NUMBER OF RECENT INVESTIGATIONS WHICH RESULTED IN ARRESTS AND SEIZURES AS EXAMPLES OF THAT

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COOPERATION. HE MENTIONED THAT DEA DIRECTOR MULLEN WOULD BE VISITING TURKEY LATER THIS YEAR. IN CONTRAST, COOPERATION WITH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WAS LACKING. SPECIFICALLY, THE GOT HAS REQUESTED THE EXTRADITION OF SEVERAL KNOWN TURKISH TRAFFICKERS WITHOUT RESPONSE FROM THE CONCERNED EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS. THE GOT IS ALSO CONCERNED THAT THE SAME INDIVIDUALS WHO ENGAGE IN NARCOTICS SMUGGLING ARE ALSO INVOLVED IN TERRORISM. CONGRESSMAN RANGEL AGREED THAT NARCOTICS SMUGGLERS AND TERRORISTS WERE TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN AND ASKED ABOUT COOPERATION ON NARCOTICS MATTERS BETWEEN TURKEY AND ITS NEIGHBORS. GORGULU ADMITTED THAT IN SEVERAL CASES AGREEMENTS EXISTED, BUT HE SAID THAT THEY WERE ONLY PIECES OF PAPER AND WERE OF LITTLE PRACTICAL USE.

13. GORGULU SAID THAT THE TNP WAS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO IMPROVE ITS NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES. HE ESTIMATED CURRENT EXPENDITURES AT \$15 MILLION PER YEAR. THIS INCLUDES GREATLY EXPANDED PERSONNEL EXCLUSIVELY DEVOTED TO NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AS WELL AS EQUIPMENT PURCHASES AND IMPROVED TRAINING. HE THANKED THE US FOR ITS ASSISTANCE AND ASKED IF MORE COULD BE PROVIDED. CONGRESSMAN RANGEL PROMISED THAT THE US WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT TURKEY'S NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS AND SAID THAT HE WOULD BRING UP GORGULU'S SUGGESTION FOR TIGHTER CONTROLS ON AA IN THE CONGRESS.

14. CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS, ERTUGRUL KUMCUOGLU: IN WELCOMING THE GROUP, KUMCUOGLU WARNED THE CONGRESSMEN THAT THE MINISTRIES OF FINANCE AND CUSTOMS HAD ONLY RECENTLY BEEN MERGED. HE HAD ONLY RECENTLY ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CUSTOMS PART OF

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HIS PORTFOLIO AND DID NOT HAVE AN IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROBLEMS TURKEY FACED IN THIS AREA. CONGRESSMAN GUARINI COMPLIMENTED TURKEY'S EFFORTS ON THE POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM, BUT SAID THAT MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE TO INTERDICT NARCOTICS TRANSITING TURKEY. THE PROBLEM IS OUT OF CONTROL WORLDWIDE AND THE US IS PREPARED TO HELP IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE. KUMCUOGLU REITERATED HIS LACK OF DETAILED KNOWLEDGE ON THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF IDENTIFYING AND SEIZING ILLICIT NARCOTICS, BUT SAID THAT MANY PROBLEMS COULD BE TRACED TO INSUFFICIENT RESOURCES. IN TURKEY'S CASE, THE WILL TO STOP THE DRUG TRAFFIC WAS THERE; TURKEY WAS COMMITTED, BUT SOMETIMES THE MEANS WERE LACKING. CONGRESSMAN ROGERS ASKED WHAT SPECIFICALLY WAS NEEDED. DEPUTY UNDER-SECRETARY DOGAN

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AKIN RESPONDED THAT SOME WAY OF IDENTIFYING ILLICIT SUBSTANCES WHETHER ON A TRAIN, A SHIP, OR AN INDIVIDUAL WAS NEEDED. HE ADMITTED THAT CUSTOMS HAS NOT HAD MUCH SUCCESS WITH THE SNIFFING DOG PROGRAM, BUT THEY WERE TRYING AGAIN WITH GERMAN ASSISTANCE TO SET UP A DOG TRAINING CENTER IN TURKEY. HE ALSO ASKED IF WE COULD PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR THE TRAINING CENTER. CONGRESSMAN GUARINI EMPHASIZED OUR DESIRE TO BE OF ASSISTANCE AND SAID THAT HE WOULD ASK THE EMBASSY TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE DOG TRAINING CENTER.

15. ON JANUARY 17, AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE HOSTED A DINNER IN HONOR OF THE CODEL THAT WAS ATTENDED BY MOST SENIOR GOVT OFFICIALS DEALING WITH NARCOTICS. ON JANUARY 18, THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HOSTED A LUNCHEON FOR THE CODEL. THE LUNCHEON WAS MARKED BY A FRANK AND LIVELY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON A WIDE VARIETY OF ISSUES.

16. CODEL RANGEL HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. A COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT AND PRESS CLIPPINGS FROM THE VISIT ARE BEING POUCED TO EUR/SE.

17. COMMENT. THE CODEL FOCUSED GREAT ATTENTION ON THE VOLUME OF NARCOTICS TRANSITING TURKEY. DURING JANUARY 17 COUNTRY TEAM BRIEFING, CONGRESSMAN RANGEL ASKED FOR A MISSION ESTIMATE OF TRANSIT TRAFFIC THROUGH TURKEY AND WAS DISAPPOINTED WHEN WE WERE UNABLE TO PROVIDE SUCH AN ESTIMATE. DEA BRIEFER DID POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT DEA INTELLIGENCE ANALYST WOULD SOON (JANUARY 18) JOIN DEA STAFF IN ANKARA. JACK CUSACK REQUESTED THAT MORE ATTENTION AND EFFORT BE DEVOTED TO AN INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT OF THE TRANSIT TRAFFIC AND RECOMMENDED THAT CONTACTS BE MADE WITH POLICE OFFICIALS IN OTHER CONSUMER COUNTRIES TO OBTAIN ESTIMATES OF THE AMOUNT OF HEROIN THAT REACHES THEIR COUNTRY VIA TURKEY. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES UNDERTAKE SUCH AN INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH MISSION HERE. FYI: DEA'S OFFICE IN TURKEY HAS ALREADY REQUESTED INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON AND OTHER CAPITOLS THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED IN AN ASSESSMENT OF THIS TYPE. END FYI.

18. CONGRESSMAN RANGEL ALSO ASKED THE EMBASSY TO FOLLOW UP ON HIS SUGGESTION THAT THE US REPLACE SWEDEN ON THE INNB'S SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST (SEE PARA 4 ABOVE). EMBASSY REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON THIS SUGGESTION. END COMMENT.

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19. THIS MESSAGE WAS DRAFTED AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF
CODEL RANGEL, PEREZ
END OF MESSAGE

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